

Dockets Management Branch (FHA-305)
Docket # 98N-1038
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

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Regarding Docket # 98N-1038 and food labeling for irradiated foods, I think that it is very important to label such irradiated food products as conspicuously as possible. I especially think that terms like "Treated by Irradiation" are useful. Watered-down terminology or less conspicuous labeling techniques are both deceptive and dishonest. I encourage the full-length, descriptive and informative method of labeling. People have a right to know what's been done to their food; and then make a choice whether or not it is something that they want to support. Keeping knowledge away from the public (through deceptive package labeling) for the benefit of the meat packing industry, corporate agribusiness and the Department of Energy is immoral; regardless of whether the FDA has deemed the nuclear radiation of our country's food "safe".

Furthermore, I object to the usage of food radiation in the first place. It not only has potentially negative ramifications to the food consumers, but also to the environment. By allowing food to be treated with radioactive waste from nuclear powerplants, these dangerous substances would be shipped all across the U.S. to food processing centers. The potential for an environmental disaster would increase dramatically. Usage of radioactive wastes in our foodstuffs is only the Department of Energy's backward rationale to justify the continuance of its nuclear energy program.

Therefore, my family and I don't want to buy irradiated food; regardless of its supposedly innocuous state. If you are going to allow such waste into the grocery stores, at least it should be explicitly and honestly labeled in clear and easy to understand lingo, *without* a bias toward the FDA's alleged "safety" study.

I look forward to your response and responsible action.

Sincerely,

Laura Richter

*The quality of the food I
buy is very important to me, & whenever possible I buy
local organic food. If I buy
something that isn't local or
organic, I hope that it is
still safe -- & I want to trust*

98N-1038